



Road trip Australia in a GT40

For three days in August 2018 Alice Springs was again Australia's home of all things wheels as the annual Red Centre NATS brought thousands of motoring enthusiasts to the Territory. Over 500 unique hot rods, street cars and vintage classics cruised a 14km/8.4m loop through Alice Springs and the surroundings.

Member and GT40 owner Clayton Ottley resides in Coolalinga, a 20 minute drive from the centre of Darwin City in Australia's Northern Territory and a cool 1,500km/932m drive from Alice Springs.

Clayton takes up the story: "After everyone raving about the Red Centre Nats 01, we decided to take the GT40 on a road trip to Alice. Problem was we don't have a boot, back seat or even a glove box, cue Dad and his F350. So we both entered the 'show and shine' and I found my missing boot space.

Dad towed a car trailer as added insurance for the 'just in case' moment. You know how Murphy's Law goes...



On our way, only 1,459km/907m to go!

At the crack of dawn on the Wednesday both vehicles headed off for our overnight stop at Renner Springs. Our first stop was Adelaide River for a stretch and then every 100 km/62m after that.

We caught up with Rod & Rita at Mataranka towing the Mad Max duo.



We met two early Holden panel vans both driven by brothers on their L plates and heading to Alice as well, how cool was that.

Thursday morning was another early start with an easy cruise into Tennant. Not too far south of Tennant the sky darkened and it started to rain. This just undid all of our hard work in cleaning the cars prior to leaving, not much we

could do about it. Devils Marbles was the next stop for photos and we saw the Hot 100 Sandman with the same idea. (Darwin radio station Hot 100's beloved promotional vehicle – known to listeners as the Sandman.Ed.)

We pushed on through the rain to Ti Tree where it cleared up somewhat. After a few more stretch stops we made it to Alice in one piece. Lots of cleaning was done that night for the Friday morning scrutineering and pre judging. Next event was the Friday night street parade. To call this massive was an understatement, with over 700 vehicles lined up at the



Just over 1,000km/620m from home are The Devils Marbles south of Tennant Creek. Located in the traditional country of the Warumungu, Kaytetye, Alyawarra and Warlpiri people who call the Devils Marbles Karlu Karlu, which literally translates as 'round boulders'. Varying in size, from 50 centimetres up to six metres across many of the giant stones are precariously balanced on top of one another, appearing to defy gravity. They continue to crack and erode today, creating an ever-changing landscape.



280km/174m to go to Alice Springs - Barrow Creek Telegraph Station was chosen in September 1871 by John Ross' Overland Telegraph exploring party, which was assessing Stuart's route to set up a telegraph line through Central Australia. The site was chosen due to the presence of surface water and for a well site of about 10 to 12 feet.

show grounds for a round trip through the city centre. All of Alice must have turned out to line the streets. When we got back to the show grounds, there were cars still departing for their cruise. Saturday and Sunday was spent looking around the show and shine, taking in the driving events and generally having a great weekend. Lots of beautiful machinery on display and we were lucky enough to get into the pavilion with the GT40,



even took home a trophy, very happy indeed. Parked next to us was a lovely eighty-year-old couple with their immaculate 1968 Toyota Corona Ute.

The trip home went just as smooth with only the speedo failing out of Alice. With the use of the GPS on the phone, we worked out what rpm was needed to keep us legal. Some 3100 km's / 1,926m later we made it back home safe and sound".

